

August 4, 2020

Memorandum in Support of S6303 and A8246

The National Infusion Center Association (NICA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization that represents the thousands of community-based Infusion Centers across the country, including those in New York, and the hundreds of thousands of patients they serve. On behalf of the infusion providers and patients we serve, NICA strongly supports S6303/A8246 and the protections it provides to New York patients.

NICA and its infusion provider partners are committed to providing a safe, accessible and compassionate care setting for some of our nation's most vulnerable patients living with autoimmune and chronic diseases that require provider-administered intravenous and/or injectable therapies. S6303/A8246 would ensure that New Yorkers could avoid additional barriers to care by requiring insurance companies to apply price reducing copay cards and coupons for out-of-pocket expenses when calculating an insured individual's cost-sharing requirement. Copay accumulator programs prevent patients from using a copay card or coupon to cover their out of pocket expenses. Under this design, when a patient uses a copay coupon or card, the health plan receives the payment from the card or coupon, yet the amount of the support provided by the coupon/card does not count toward the patient's maximum out of pocket limit.

Health care innovations made possible by biologic therapies, and new uses for intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), have improved the lives of thousands of patients living with chronic diseases and complex immune disorders. Unfortunately, these new therapies can be incredibly expensive. New York has a strong record in leading the nation in providing access to affordable health coverage. Copay accumulator programs make it even more challenging for patients to afford their medication. Copay coupons and copay cards can provide much needed financial relief to patients, especially to those with primary immunodeficiency diseases and immune-mediated inflammatory conditions, like rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis and lupus, that require expensive biologic and IVIG therapies.

Based on these concerns, we strongly support S6303/A8246 which protects patient access to lifesaving medication that they may otherwise be unable to afford. Copay accumulator programs seriously threaten access to treatment for vulnerable patients, especially those with high deductible or high copayment health insurance plans. On behalf of the patients we serve, battling chronic conditions for the rest of their lives, we strongly urge your support and sponsorship of S6303 and A8246, to stop this unfair practice and to help New York families afford the



medication they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Nyquist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and the last name "Nyquist" clearly legible.

BRIAN NYQUIST, MPH | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL INFUSION CENTER ASSOCIATION



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